



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 21, 2004

Contact: Myra Clark-Siegel
202/986-2600

***Women's Health Advocate Disappointed by Supreme Court Decision;
Patients Denied Protections***

*Statement of Debra L. Ness
President-Elect, National Partnership for Women & Families*

“Today’s Supreme Court decision has shut the door on meaningful redress for millions of American workers and their families who rely on employer-sponsored health coverage. Instead of protecting patients, this decision eliminates health plan accountability for poor health care decisions. This is the wrong outcome for patients, and for our health care system.

Nearly 131 million Americans will have no recourse when their health plans make a decision that causes them harm. Insulating health plans from responsibility for their decisions puts the quality of our health care at risk. Surely, the American people deserve better

This decision reinforces the need for federal patients’ rights legislation. We urge Members of Congress to put health care decisions back where they belong – in the hands of patients and their health care providers. And we call on the President to fulfill his promise to the American people by supporting a strong, enforceable Patients Bill of Rights.”

#

The National Partnership for Women & Families is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that promotes fairness in the workplace, quality health care, and policies that help women and men meet the dual demands of work and family. The National Partnership led the coalition of more than 300 health care and consumer organizations supporting the enactment of strong patient protection legislation.